Testimony of Ivory, age 17, Stratford In Support of S.B. 156

My name is Ivory. I am 17 years old and live in Stratford. I support Senate Bill 156, An Act Concerning Sibling Visitation for Children in the Care and Custody of the Commissioner of Children and Families. It's good for kids to be in touch with their siblings. When a child doesn't have their parents, then the next closest family relationship they can have is with their biological siblings. I have been in DCF for several years and have been seeing my biological siblings once a week and I feel that they should be able to visit with their siblings once a week or more often. Visiting them often has helped me stay in touch with my family. The more time you spend with your family, the closer your relationships are and the more likely you are to stay connected. I ask you to support sibling rights for kids in DCF care by voting yes on Senate Bill 156. Thank you very much for your time and support.